

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for classifying tangible art objects using a classification code such that the  
of a given asset may be readily determined. The basic steps of the classification method of  
present invention include providing a database for storage of information regarding a given  
establishing within the database one or more order categories, identifying each order  
category with a first identifier, determining which order categories describes the given asset,  
classifying the given asset as being classified by the order category which best describes the  
asset in the database, and assigning the applicable first identifier to the given asset.

9        One or more family categories may then be established such that the given asset may be  
10      further classified. Once family categories have been established, each family category is  
11      identified with a second identifier. It is then determined, based upon the stored information  
12      concerning the given asset, what family category describes the given asset. Once the applicable  
13      family category is determined, the given asset is designated as being described by the applicable  
14      family category. The second identifier corresponding to the applicable family category may then  
15      be assigned to the given asset and the first and second identifiers may be combined to define an  
16      identifier code.

7 One or more genus categories may then be established such that the given asset may be  
8 further classified. Once genus categories have been established, each genus category is  
9 identified with a third identifier. It is then determined, based upon the stored information  
10 concerning the given asset, what genus category describes the given asset. Once the applicable  
11 genus category is determined, the given asset is designated as being described by the applicable  
12 genus category. The third identifier corresponding to the applicable genus category may then be

1 assigned to the given asset and the first, second and third identifiers may be combined to further  
2 define the identifier code.

3 One or more species categories may then be established such that the given asset may be  
4 further classified. Once species categories have been established, each species category is  
5 identified with a fourth identifier. It is then determined, based upon the stored information  
6 concerning the given asset, what species category describes the given asset. Once the applicable  
7 species category is determined, the given asset is designated as being described by the applicable  
8 species category. The fourth identifier corresponding to the applicable species category may then  
9 be assigned to the given asset and the first, second, third, and fourth identifiers may be combined  
10 to further define the identifier code.

11 One or more sub-species categories may then be established such that the given asset may  
12 be further classified. Once sub-species categories have been established, each sub-species  
13 category is identified with a fifth identifier. It is then determined, based upon the stored  
14 information concerning the given asset, what sub-species category describes the given asset.  
15 Once the applicable sub-species category is determined, the given asset is designated as being  
16 described by the applicable sub-species category. The fifth identifier corresponding to the  
17 applicable sub-species category may then be assigned to the given asset and the first, second,  
18 third, fourth and fifth identifiers may be combined to further define the identifier code.